State of Washington

Citizen Commission for Performance Measurement of Tax Preferences



William A. Longbrake, Chair Board of Directors, BECU

Stephen B. Miller, Vice Chair Washington Education Association

Ronald BueingPivotal Law Group, PLLC.

Dr. Grant D. Forsyth Avista Corp

Lily Kahng

Seattle University Law School

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Representative Kathy Haigh

Chair, Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee

Troy Kelley
State Auditor

Citizen Commission for Performance Measurement of Tax Preferences Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2013 John A. Cherberg Building Senate Hearing Room 3 Olympia, WA

Members Present:

William A. Longbrake Grant Forsyth
Lily Kahng Stephen Miller
Troy Kelley Ron Bueing

Members Absent:

Representative Kathy Haigh

Staff:

Keenan Konopaski John Woolley
Mary Welsh Dana Lynn
Peter Heineccius Suzanne Kelly
Matt Stoutenburg Audrey Phillips
Stacia Hollar, AG Staff

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Commission Chair Bill Longbrake welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. The Chair welcomed newly appointed commission members, Grant Forsyth and Ron Bueing, and returning commission member, Lily Kahng.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the May 17, 2013, meeting minutes.

The motion was seconded and carried.

(See TVW recording at 0:02:11)

LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

Keenan Konopaski, Legislative Auditor, and John Woolley, Deputy Legislative Auditor, briefed the Commission on bills having to do with tax preferences that came before the legislature during the 2013 legislative session. John Woolley reviewed the implementation status of the recommendations made to the Legislature by the Legislative Auditor and the Commission. Keenan Konopaski commented on the legislature's intent with regard to data collection. (See TVW recording at 0:03:58)

2013 EXPEDITED REVIEWS: COMMISSIONER QUESTIONS

The Chair suggested expanding the scope of the commission questions to stakeholders and the public so that it encompasses both the full tax preference reviews and the expedited reviews. Stephen Miller, Vice Chair, provided revisions to the draft commission questions. The Chair will work with staff to appropriately define and explain the intent of the questions so stakeholders will understand.

MOTION:

A motion was made to direct staff to put together a web solicitation of stakeholder comment and to work with the Chair to refine questions.

The motion was seconded and carried.

(See TVW recording at 0:16:00)

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC RECORDS REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMISSIONERS, REVIEW OF COMMISSIONERS, REVIEW OF COMMISSION POLICIES

Stacia Hollar, Commission staff, discussed the Open Public Meetings Act. (See TVW recording at 0:34:04)

Keenan Konopaski informed the Commission about its policy related to disclosing potential conflicts of interest. Grant Forsyth disclosed that he works for Avista Corporation, and that his wife works for the Inland Northwest Blood Center. Their employers may receive benefit from two preferences being discussed this year: tree trimming under power lines, and non-profit blood and tissue banks. (See TVW recording at 0:51:29)

SOLICITATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING 2013 EXPEDITED REVIEWS

The Chair said that commission members may solicit requests for testimony on specific reviews. Commissioners will look at the 48 expedited reviews and provide staff with any requests for public comment on specific preferences by the end of the day on Monday. (See TVW recording at 0:55:58)

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2013 TAX PREFERENCE PERFORMANCE REVIEWS – PRELIMINARY REPORT

John Woolley, Mary Welsh, and Dana Lynn, Commission staff, presented the 2013 Tax Preference Performance Reviews Preliminary Report and responded to questions by the Commissioners. (See TVW recording at 1:01:00)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Denny Eliason, representing Washington Dental Service, testified regarding the preference for Dentistry (B&O Tax). (See TVW recording at 2:23:44)

Andy Nichols, from the Washington Budget and Policy Center, testified regarding the preference for Prescription Drug Resellers (B&O Tax). (See TVW recording at <u>2:34:01</u>)

Keenan Konopaski informed the Commission that the Auto Alliance had provided written testimony regarding the preference for Alternative Fuel Vehicles (Sales and Use Tax). (Audio not recorded by TVW)

Following public testimony Chair Longbrake adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.